IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Amended): ~~[1]~~ A gas generator [[(30)]] comprising:

a metal housing [[(3)]] constituted by an initiator shell [[(1)]] and a closure shell[[(2)]],

a combustion chamber [[(5)]] which is formed inside the housing [[(3)]] and into which gas generants [[(4)]] generating a high-temperature gas through combustion are loaded,

a filter member [[(6)]] disposed around the combustion chamber[[(5)]],

an igniter [[(7)]] mounted into the housing [[(3)]] and igniting and burning the gas generants [[(4)]] inside the combustion chamber [[(5)]], and

a plurality of gas discharge openings [[(8a, 8b)]] formed on the housing [[(3)]] and discharging the gas generated in the combustion chamber[[(5)]], wherein either or both of the initiator shell [[(1)]] and the closure shell [[(2)]] constituting the housing [[(3)]] are provided with semi-spherical or semi-oval end plate portions [[(14, 10)]] and cylindrical portions [[(13, 9)]] having a diameter D continuously formed from [[these]] said end plate portions ~~(14, 10), H/D of a ratio~~, a ratio H/D of the bottom distance H between the end plate portion [[(14)]] of the initiator shell [[(1)]] and that [[(10)]] of the closure shell [[(2)]] to the diameter D of the cylindrical portions [[(13. 9)]] is in the range from 0.4 to 1.3, and a ratio A/At ~~and (A/At) which is a ratio~~ of [[the]] a total sum (A) of [[the]] surface areas of gas generants [[(4)]] to the total sum (At) of the opening areas of the gas discharge openings [[(8a, 8b)]] is in excess of 1300 and not more than 2000,

wherein the gas discharge openings have first and second opening diameters (D1, D2) and are disposed in two arrays in a zigzag form, the first opening diameter (D1) being smaller than the second opening diameter D2, and

wherein a relation of a distance d between gas discharge openings in an axial direction of the housing, the first opening diameter (D1), and the second opening diameter (D2) is represented by $d \geq (D1 + D2)/2$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~[2]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b) are available in~~ comprise two or more opening diameters.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[3]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ are disposed in a single array or in a plurality of arrays.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[4]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the gas discharge openings (8a, 8b) are available in two opening diameters (large and small) and disposed in two arrays in a zigzag form, and D1/D2 which is a ratio of a small opening diameter D1 of the gas discharge opening to a large opening diameter D2 of the gas discharge opening~~ a ratio D1/D2 is in [[the]] a range of from 0.1 to 1.0.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[6]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 1, which comprises a rupture member wherein the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ are closed by [[a]] said rupture member [[(11)]] and [[the]] said rupture member ~~(11) is~~ comprises a metal plate made of aluminum, steel or stainless steel.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~[7]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein [[the]] said rupture member [[(11)]] is in [[the]] a range from 0.01mm to 0.3mm in thickness.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~[8]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein [[the]] said rupture member [[(11)]] is provided so as to be different in strength depending on an opening diameter of the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ and [[the]] a strength level of the rupture member [[(11)]] is increased corresponding with a decrease in diameter of the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~[9]~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein with ~~regard~~ respect to [[the]] a strength level of [[the]] said rupture member [[(11) each of]] which is attached to each of a plurality of gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ having a different opening diameter, the strength level of the rupture member is ~~adjusted~~ adjustable [[in]] such [[a way]] that T1/T2 = D2/D1 and is in the range of from 2 to 8 ~~on the assumption of~~ when T1/T2 = D2/D1,

[[where]] wherein

T1 is [[the]] a strength of [[the]] value said rupture member which is attached to a gas discharge opening having [[a small]] said first opening diameter D1,

T2 is [[the]] a strength of [[the]] value said rupture member which is attached to a gas discharge opening having [[a large]] said second opening diameter D2.